

# Soundings



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**Engineers Day Kicks Off  
Events at the Soo**





## Commander's Column

We've just completed a historic year for the Detroit District, as evidenced by our dozens of major projects, record budget, and significant strengthening of personnel.

Congratulations to all of you on your GREAT 2009 accomplishments. Take pride in your achievements, and be ready for another busy and rewarding year.

The \$51 million we received from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) represents a rare opportunity for the Detroit District. The last major stimulus was during the Great Depression – more than 70 years ago. With ARRA funds



Lt. Col. James  
Davis

augmenting our regular budget, the Detroit District at the close of fiscal year 09 had 54 civil works and military projects valued at \$265 million under construction!

Just in the past year, our District has initiated a flurry of construction and maintenance projects. Groundbreaking has finally taken place for the first phase of construction of a new lock at Sault Ste. Marie. Additionally, we are involved in projects at the Detroit Arsenal, under the Base Realignment and Closure Act (BRAC); we are upgrading numerous Veterans Administration hospitals; and performing ongoing harbor dredging, among many other projects.

Perhaps most important, we have strengthened our staff with more talent, experience and expertise, “building our

bench” with important depth. Many employees came from outside the Corps, which means an infusion of new ideas and fresh perspectives. We are well-equipped to tackle the current workload as well as the challenges to come.

I want to welcome all employees who have joined our team in the past year. You are now part of a highly respected organization with an exemplary track record for improving the quality of life for millions of people worldwide.

I look forward to working with you. Please keep up the hard work as we continue our journey from Good to Great this year.

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An artist's rendering of a new office building being constructed at the Detroit Arsenal in Warren, Mich. This and three other projects at the arsenal are being built under the Defense Base Realignment and Closure Act (BRAC) of 2005. Completion is slated for September 2011.

## SOUNDINGS

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Photo by Cassandra Kardeke

Detroit District employees who have deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan gather with Lt. Gen. Robert Van Antwerp (right), Lt. Col. Michael Brooks (left), and Lt. Col. James Davis.



Photo by Cassandra Kardeke

Lt. Gen. Robert Van Antwerp, the commanding general and chief engineer of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, enjoys a lighter moment with Connie Boris, Ph.D., SAME Regional Conference co-chair, during the August summit.

The event took place at the Detroit Marriott Renaissance Center, covering topics including alternative energy sources, environmentally sustainable construction, and national security.

## Chief of Engineers visits Detroit District, addresses SAME regional conference

By Gregory Piatt  
Public Affairs Office

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' commanding general came to Detroit in mid-August to deliver his vision for the Corps to those attending the Society of American Military Engineers 2009 Great Lakes and Ohio Valley Regional Conference.



Photo by Cassandra Kardeke

Lt. Gen. Robert Van Antwerp, the commanding general of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, presents Lt. Col. Brooks, accompanied by his wife Deana, with his promotion to Lieutenant Colonel.

While in the Motor City, Lt. Gen. Robert L. Van Antwerp also met with Detroit District employees and was the keynote speaker at the district's town hall. He also presented his vision to district employees.

At the conference and town hall, the Corps' Chief of Engineers said that in order to go from "good to great" it is imperative that the Corps have the right people. The Corps normal attrition is between seven and 10 percent and the right people need to be hired, Van Antwerp said.

He said Corps employees must deliver superior performance to earn and maintain respect.

"We need to do it one project at a time," Van Antwerp said, adding the Corps must "set the standard for the profession."

Furthermore, in order to serve the nation, the Corps must "do that thing that is unique," and not do what any other government agency or private industry can do, he said.

Waterborne navigation and dealing with water resources issues are among the things that the Corps does that are unique, he said.

"We solve the nation's water problems," Van Antwerp said. While at the town hall, the Chief presented awards to Detroit District employees who deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan in recent months. Despite the winding down of the U.S. mission in Iraq by 2011, overseas deployments to areas of conflict will still be part of the Corps' mission, especially deployments to Afghanistan, Van Antwerp said.

"We'll be deploying about 1,000 people to Afghanistan for at least the next 10 years," he added. Van Antwerp also presented other employees awards, such as Harry Salisbury and Marie Strum, who were awarded the Commander's Award for their outstanding work. The Chief also presented the Detroit District's deputy commander, Maj. Michael Brooks, with his promotion to Lieutenant Colonel.





# Corps breaks ground for new lock to replace

By Cassandra Kardeke and Gregory Piatt  
Public Affairs Office

**Marking the beginning of a new era, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers held a groundbreaking June 30 for a new shipping lock in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., which will replace two World War I-era locks.**

U.S. Senators, U.S. Representatives along with Canadian, Michigan and local officials joined U.S. Army Corps of Engineers leaders, employees and retirees at a public ceremony to plunge shovels into the soil next to one of the decommissioned World War I-era locks. By 'digging in', they marked the beginning of new construction at the Soo Locks on the St. Marys River in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

"The true importance of the Soo Locks rests with its geographic location," Maj. Gen. Merdith W.B. "Bo" Temple told the 500 attendees as ships traversed the two nearby operational locks, the Poe and MacArthur.

"The Great Lakes Navigation System is located at the core of North America's industrial and manufacturing

heartland," said Temple, the Corps' deputy commanding general of Civil and Emergency Operations. "The Soo Locks is the linchpin linking that system closer together and allowing over 80 million tons of cargo to pass through these locks annually."

Key sectors of the U.S. economy depend on the Great Lakes system with many commodities flowing through this area, Temple said. Those commodities are vital to the national economy, international trade and are essential components of an economic recovery, he added.

"Some 44,000 jobs in the region are directly related to maritime transport and hundreds of thousands more in the mining, steel producing and auto industries rely on an efficient navigation system," Temple said.

Currently, there are four locks at the Soo. The Poe Lock is the only one large enough to allow passage of 1,000-foot lake freighters between lakes Superior and Huron. However, the Poe is 41 years old and has periodically experienced malfunctions, leaving

ships waiting until the lock is fixed.

The concern is that a major breakdown or a ship collision with the Poe Lock could cause an extended shutdown. This would strand approximately 40 of the largest freighters carrying coal, iron

## Dignitaries gather for Soo Locks groundbreaking

Numerous federal, state, and local dignitaries were on hand for the Soo Locks groundbreaking. Participating in the ceremony were Michael O'Bryan, chief of Engineering and Technical Services; John Niemiec, project manager; Gary O'Keefe, deputy district engineer for Project Management; Lt. Col. Donald Lauzon (Ret.), former district engineer, Detroit District; John Rowswell, mayor of Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.; Joseph McCoy, chairperson of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians; Lt. Col. James Davis, district engineer, Detroit District; Brig. Gen. John Peabody, division commander, Great Lakes and Ohio River Division; Debbie Stabenow, U.S. Senator, D-Mich.; Terrence Salt, assistant secretary of the Army for Civil Works; Carl Levin, U.S. Senator, D-Mich.; Bart Stupak, U.S. Representative, D-Menominee, Mich.; Maj. Gen. Merdith Temple, deputy commanding general for Civil and Emergency Operations; James Weakley, president of the Lake Carriers' Association; Anthony Bosbous, mayor of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.; Harold Lawson, former area engineer, Soo Area Office; Col. Dana Hurst, district engineer, Huntington District; William Richardson, president, TAB Construction Co.; David Knight, project manager, Great Lakes Commission; Al Klein, area engineer, Soo Area Office and former Detroit District Commander Col. Melvin D. Remus (Ret.).



Photo by Gregory Piatt

*Elected officials and Corps leaders pitch dirt during a ground breaking ceremony for a replacement lock at the Soo Locks in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. on June 30.*



# Davis and Sabin locks

ore, limestone and other commodities to businesses and power plants in communities along the Great Lakes to the St. Lawrence Seaway and beyond.

These large lake freighters carry 70 percent of the U.S.-flagged cargo capacity on the lakes, according to the Great Lakes Maritime Task Force. In 2008, more than 7,000 vessels hauling approximately 82 million tons of freight passed through the locks.

"The steel industry depends greatly on the Soo Locks with iron ore pellets passing through it," said U.S. Rep. Bart Stupak from Menominee, Mich. "If shipping were to come to a halt on the Great Lakes it would have a tremendous economic impact on the region."

The planned construction is to take the Davis Lock and Sabin Lock and construct another large lock that would be able to handle 1,000-foot ships. A second large lock would help reduce the possibility of bottling up shipping on the Great Lakes.

It would also allow maintenance to occur year round instead of only during upper Michigan's blustery winters when shipping on the lakes halts.

"We're very proud to highlight the possibilities that this new lock, will not only be an engineering marvel, but will also strengthen the economies of the states that border this connection to the world," said Maj. Gen. John W. Peabody, commander and division engineer of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Great Lakes and Ohio River Division.

For over 150 years vessels have been locking to and from Lake Superior and Lake Huron. The state of Michigan built a lock which was completed in 1855; operation of the lock was turned over to the Corps in 1881. Since then, additional locks have been built, widened and rebuilt to accommodate the advancement in vessels which traverse the Great Lakes.

It has taken more than two decades to begin construction on the current replacement lock. Congress had authorized building of a new lock in 1986. For 23 years, studies were done to determine the best course and benefits of the locks. Finally, \$17 million was appropriated in the fiscal year 2009 budget to construct coffer dams in order to begin.



Photo by Cassandra Kardeke

Maj. Gen. Merdith W.B. "Bo" Temple, the Corps' deputy commanding general of Civil and Emergency Operations, speaks during the ground breaking ceremony at the Soo Locks. Temple called the Soo Locks the linchpin linking the Great Lakes Navigation System.

With the first of many tasks needed to build the replacement lock funded, Michigan Sen. Debbie Stabenow is eager to get the project moving. "The time for talk is over and time for studies is over. Let's get it done."

However, the total construction project is estimated to cost \$580 million and funds will be needed for construction over the coming years, Michigan Sen. Carl Levin said.

"This is going to be a 10-year project and there will be a constant fight to get the resources year-by-year to keep it going," Levin said.

The ground breaking marked the beginning of construction of the coffer dams by Tab Construction Company of Canton, Ohio. The coffer dams will hold back water and provide a dry environment for construction of the replacement lock in the footprint of the existing Davis and Sabin locks.

The Poe and MacArthur locks will remain operational during the construction period. "When finished, this efficient modern lock will provide the vital upgrade to our marine transport system," said Kirk Steudel, director of Michigan Department of Transportation.



Photo by Cassandra Kardeke

The Soo Locks held its Engineers Day with an open house at the end of June and hundreds of people came out to see the locks. Visitors line the gates of the Poe Lock and watch the iron ore carrier Edwin H. Gott as it waits to traverse the lock. This year's Engineers Day was a successful and popular event.





## Executive Board honors Detroit employees with plaques, luncheon

The Federal Executive board recently honored five employees with awards at the 32nd Annual Federal Employee Recognition Ceremony.

The recipients and their supervisors gathered for a luncheon May 13 at the Club Venetian in Madison Heights.

*Sitting, from left, are Charlie Simon, Regulatory; Nanette Noorbaksh, Hydraulics and Hydrology; Lt. Col. Michael Brooks, Executive Office; Standing from left are, Andy Wadysz, Engineering Construction; John Allis, Hydraulics and Hydrology; Ron Greene, Operations Office; Jim Luke, Regulatory; Eric Burr, Engineering and Construction; Bill O'Donoghue, Operations Office; Florence Bissell, Environmental Office; and Les Weigum, Environmental Office.*



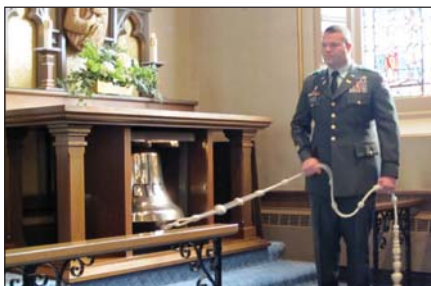
## Longstanding memorial service honors Great Lakes mariners

About 350 people were on hand Nov. 8 for the traditional service at Mariners Church in Detroit, which honors those in the marine community who have lost their lives in the Great Lakes.

After the Edmund Fitzgerald sank in November 1975, the church began focusing the service on the 29 victims of that incident. But beginning in 2006, the scope broadened to honor

all Great Lakes mariners who have died in marine-related accidents.

Photos provided by Mariners Church



*Lt. Col. James Davis rings the bell at the 2009 Mariners Church memorial ceremony.*



*About 350 people attended the memorial service at Mariners Church in Detroit. Representing the Detroit District were Commander Lt. Col. James Davis and Corps employee Jack Frost, who also represented the International Ship Masters Association.*

## Corps employees hone communication, leadership

by Bob Walsh, Evans & Associates

Because of its pledge to lead with integrity in the workplace, the future is bright for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

As part of that commitment, some 56 Detroit District senior employees have embarked on a six-month leadership and supervisory skills awareness course that will run through March 2010. Conducted by Evans and Associates Consulting Corp. (EACC) of Oneida, N.Y., the training enables participants to hone their leadership skills through feedback, self-assessment, and by setting and achieving individual goals.

The training sessions will be held once a month for four hours, totaling 24 hours. They take place at the Detroit District headquarters and are transmitted via video teleconference to corps offices in the Soo, Grand Haven, Mich.; Kewaunee, Wis., and Duluth, Minn.

## Sanitary sewer improvements in Duluth



Officials met in Duluth, Minn., recently to sign three Project Partnership Agreements for sewer system improvements designed to increase reliability and eliminate sanitary sewer overflows into Lake Superior. From left are Marianne Bohren, executive director of the Western Lake Superior Sanitary District; Don Ness, mayor of Duluth, Minn.; and Lt. Col. James Davis, district engineer Detroit, Mich. The \$3 million project is funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The program kicked off with use of a performance review method called “360-degree feedback” that is sometimes used by human resource departments to gather valuable perspectives on leadership performance. Supervisors, peers and subordinates

provided this feedback to participants in the form of detailed narrative comments. EACC Senior Consultant Robert Walsh then met individually with each participant in an in-depth review and analysis of their 360-degree survey results.

During the course of the training, discussion topics will include values, mental models, managerial styles, work climate, communication skills, praise and constructive criticism. EACC prides itself on custom designing programs to recognize different learning styles and preparing clients for necessary changes to help them achieve success.

EACC also conducted a district-wide Organizational Climate Survey by measuring six climate dimensions: Clarity, Rewards, Standards, Responsibility, Flexibility and Team Commitment. Walsh and EACC will work closely with the district to help define and implement changes to improve the work climate.

## Regulatory Office trains in communication skills

In early November, 48 Detroit District regulatory staffers came together in the McNamara Building to attend training designed to enhance their skills at communicating with clients.

As representatives of the Army Corps of Engineers who regularly interact with the public, the participants discussed and practiced how to deal with difficult clients. Their dialogue included lessons learned from actual Detroit District cases. The in-depth exercises also helped employees become more attuned to people with different values and communication styles, and to enhance personal listening skills, e.g. listening to understand, not just to respond.

The two-day course was designed and delivered by Evans and Associates Consulting Corp. (EACC) of Oneida, N.Y., a professional and organizational development firm that is also conducting leadership skills training for 56 senior Detroit District employees.

Locally based EACC consultant Robert Walsh conducted the training session.

“There is no substitute for experience, and an abundant sharing of skills and ideas by attendees contributed significantly to the training’s effectiveness,” Walsh said.





## Employees of the Year

Since 1775, when the Continental Congress created the Army Corps of Engineers, the Corps has honored its top employees on Engineers Day. As part of that tradition, the Detroit District celebrates the accomplishments of its outstanding team with "Employee of the Year" awards in categories fitting individual positions. The following 15 employees were honored June 19 during the Engineers Day ceremony in downtown Detroit.

### Congratulations to all of the Corps Detroit District Employees of the Year for 2009:

#### Michael Geiger – Engineer of the Year

Geiger is a key team member who oversees the construction contract



Michael Geiger

program, researches legal and technical issues affecting Corps projects and clearly defines the requirements for completion of tasks and objectives. In addition to his solid work ethic, competence and communication skills, he is well-liked because he places a priority on treating co-workers and stakeholders with respect.

#### John Niemiec – Project Manager of the Year

During his 31 years of employment with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Niemiec has shown himself to be an excellent communicator, a team player and adept at managing budgets



John Niemiec

– essential traits for a successful project manager.

As program manager for the Soo Locks Replacement Project, Niemiec has delivered briefings, prepared briefing slides for the commander,

given public presentations on the project, and assisted in development of an informational brochure.

#### Harry Salisbury – Professional Specialist of the Year

Salisbury is blessed with the necessary



Harry Salisbury

“people skills” to regularly collaborate and coordinate with project managers, program staff and project development teams. He establishes and adheres to project schedules, monitors key milestone dates, willingly trains and mentors colleagues, and serves as a liaison to members of Congress on projects in their districts.

#### Brian Mallory – Technical Person of the Year



Brian Mallory

When parts are needed, Mallory is the man who does the research, ordering, and delivery for each piece of equipment. His reliability, efficiency, positive attitude and enduring patience

help keep the Soo Area Office operating smoothly without interruption.

#### Doretta Calhoun-Battles – Administrator of the Year

Calhoun wears many hats as an administrative assistant, formulating the Contracting Office Budget, maintaining the Government Purchase Card Program, coordinating the FedBiz Ops



Doretta Calhoun-Battles

software program, and organizing procurement projects on the website. She is proactive, and serves as a role model for others because of her positive attitude, dedication and willingness to do whatever is needed to help keep the office running efficiently.

#### Pam Horner – Scientist of the Year

As District chemist, Horner gathers and interprets sediment data, coordinates



Pam Horner

with state and federal environmental agencies, teaches a Manifest Procedures course to field office personnel, and contributes her expertise to annual dredging meetings with Michigan and Wisconsin officials. She is well-known for her can-do attitude, dedication and positive relations with co-workers.

#### Toni Massart – Administrator of the Year

Massart, a budget technician, excels in executing the Lake Michigan Area



Toni Massart

Office budget, and also helps out with office duties in the Keweenaw, Grand Haven and Fox River sub offices.

Her competence and familiarity with office activities,





## Employees of the Year

files and procedures makes her efforts vital to the success of these offices, while her excellent attitude, professionalism and constant dedication are invaluable to the Detroit District.

### William "Bill" Feltis – Operator/Maintainer of the Year

Feltis, a dedicated and talented electrician at the Soo Area Office, continually makes major contributions to installing and maintaining electrical infrastructure at the Soo hydropower plant and Locks.



Bill Feltis

He was instrumental in installing the state-of-the-art Poe Lock PLC system that controls the new gate latches, and his analytical skills make him well equipped to resolve complex problems.

### Les Weigum – Leader of the Year

Weigum, Chief of the Environmental Analysis Branch for 28 years, is an inspirational leader because he energizes and enlightens his staff, always leading by example.



Les Weigum

His unmatched knowledge of environmental laws and regulations, passionate support of the intricate environmental permitting process, and insistence on providing recognition to deserving employees has earned him tremendous respect in the Corps community.

### Jim Collins – Operator/Maintainer of the Year

Collins, who started at the Soo Area

Office in 1992, is appreciated greatly because he empowers his employees, encouraging them to show initiative and innovation.



James Collins

His organized and efficient approach includes maintaining detailed work and equipment schedules, monitoring work progress, keeping critical tasks on path, and encouraging employees to take ownership in their projects.

### Scott Aldrich – Boater of the Year

Aldrich has shown an exceptional ability to work with and, when



Scott Aldrich

necessary, lead coworkers on a variety of assignments, in large part because of his cheerful, positive attitude and collaborative skills. His performance and achievements often exceed expectations regardless of the assignment – a standard to which others can aspire.

### Ari McKeever – Student of the Year

As a co-op student for the Hydraulic Engineering Branch, McKeever has established a reputation for being so



Ari McKeever

reliable, methodical and efficient when he takes on assignments, he's earned the nickname "ROBO-ARI." Ari's positive attitude and willingness to help out make him a valuable resource to the

Detroit District office as he juggles Corps responsibilities with pursuit of a double major in civil engineering and geology from Wayne State University.

### Donald Mackin – Distinguished Civilian Award

Mackin started out with the Corps in 1958 as a GS-2 Engineering Aid and worked his way up from rowing



Donald Mackin

a survey boat in the St. Marys River Branch to being a Construction Inspector, performing design and drafting work on projects including the survey vessel James Bray, and serving as a Supervisory Civil Engineering Technician (GS-10), all the while exhibiting a steady, systematic approach to work that makes him one of the Corps' unsung heroes.

Don was also instrumental in the transformation of hydrographic surveys, replacing slow, labor-intensive methods with the latest technology for collection of depth measurement data, including sonar, microwave positioning systems and GPS.

### Ronald Pearce – Distinguished Civilian Award

Pearce began his Army Corps of Engineers career in 1947, served in the



Ronald Pearce

U.S. Army during the Korean conflict, and then earned a degree in mechanical engineering from Michigan Technological University. His entire 35-year career with the Corps was spent in

(continued on page 10)



## Employees of the Year

(continued from page 9)

the St. Marys River Branch, where he was appointed Chief in 1967, managed contracts and surveys, spearheaded development of the survey vessel James Bray, and consistently brought together and built strong relationships with stakeholders.

### Douglas Zande – Distinguished Civilian Award

Zande consistently accepted new responsibilities with enthusiasm,



Douglas Zande

performed brilliantly, and made exceptional contributions to the District's Operations Office, for which he served as Chief.

Known for his expertise and knowledge of Great

Lakes system-wide requirements, he broke new ground in the regionalization of floating plant asset management as well as navigation

safety, fostered superb relationships with key stakeholders, and aptly resolved complex problems.

### Dredging team wins Team of the Year award

The Detroit District Dredging Team received "Team of the Year" honors.

In fiscal year 2008, Congress appropriated funding to dredge 40 harbors and channels – a drastic increase from 15 projects in FY2007.

The dredging team successfully advertised and awarded all of the funded dredging projects. Field personnel managed all of the contracts – with only a slight increase in personnel. All team members collaborated and communicated effectively to ensure success. Various individuals completed tasks outside of their normal job duties.

The dredging team has worked with several agencies at the federal, state and local levels to accomplish its tasks. Close coordination with the state of Michigan allowed for dredging during periods when environmental restrictions normally applied. Without much innovation and creativity by its members, the team would not have achieved such success.

### Aldrich named Safety Champion of the Year

Scott Aldrich, a Small Craft Operator, was presented with the Safety Champion of the Year award for his constant focus on, and persistent application of, safety in his daily work.

Aldrich has worn many hats while working for the Soo Area Office. While working with survey crews in the St. Marys River Section during a very busy time of year, he needed to tow a 10-foot-wide, six-ton survey vessel through Chicago traffic before launching and safely operating it in varying sea conditions.

Aldrich was required to pre-plan all of his trips, obtain wide load permits from each of the states he would travel through (Michigan, Indiana, and Illinois), and adhere to rigid travel guidelines. After completing these steps, Aldrich then had to tow the

vessel from Sault Sainte Marie, Mich. to and through Chicago. What's more, Aldrich did this during the height of tourism and construction season. He remained accident-free in all his travels.

Aldrich provided assistance over two different winter work operations: the Poe Lock winter work in early 2008, for which he worked in the machine shop; and the MacArthur Lock, where he was in charge of lead abatement during the sandblasting and painting portion of the job.

Aldrich's labors and high regard for following safety procedures earned him the trust and respect of his co-workers, and ensured their health and safety as they engaged in this potentially hazardous work.

Aldrich has shown himself adept at taking on assignments requiring skills he has not used in years, such as his work in the machine

shop during the Poe Lock project. His devotion and commitment to creating safe work environments is a benchmark for others to follow.



Lt. Col. James Davis presents the Safety Champion of the Year Award to Scott Aldrich, Small Craft Operator with the Soo Area Office.



## Great Lakes Update

### Corps leaders receive awards

Detroit District Engineer Lt. Col. James Davis and Lake Michigan Area Engineer Tom O'Bryan were part of the 25 year rededication ceremony for the Grand Haven Boardwalk that was originally constructed in 1984 during a joint partnership between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Grand Haven, Mich.

They received awards for partnering efforts with the local community to ensure that the Grand Haven Boardwalk will continue to exist and be maintained for many years to come.

The event was held last summer at Escanaba Park along the Federal Channel in Grand Haven. The participants included the cities of Grand Haven, Ferrysburg, and Spring Lake, the U.S. Coast Guard, and the Corps of Engineers.



*Detroit District Engineer Lt. Col. James Davis and Lake Michigan Area Engineer Tom O'Bryan celebrate with local officials during the 25th year rededication ceremony for the Grand Haven Boardwalk.*

### McQuade wins award

The recently opened McQuade small craft harbor north of Duluth, Minn., on Lake Superior has earned a BoatUS Recreational Boating Access Award for providing public access by collaborating with partners.

The McQuade grand opening was July 18, 2008. Working together was the key to the success of the McQuade project. Cooperation between the Army Corps of Engineers, state and local agencies, communities, boating and fishing groups, conservation organizations and the public made



the harbor became a reality.

The three-acre safe harbor and public access site has logged 2,000 launches since it opened. The project cost \$11 million.

### West Point cadet interns with Army Corps of engineers

Cadet Christopher Steward-Blakely said he enjoyed his 21-day internship with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Detroit.

Steward-Blakely, who entered his senior year at the United States Military Academy in August, interned at the Corps' Nashville District in 2008.

He spent a lot of time doing harbor inspections, something Steward-Blakely enjoyed doing. The cadet said he liked the work because he had to pay attention to detail.

Steward-Blakely also attended pre-construction meetings the

district had with the Department of Veterans Affairs over construction work at VA hospitals.

Steward-Blakely, who has lived in Texas, Georgia, Arizona and Germany, said he likes Detroit.



*"This year I was closer to the work. I traveled to the sites. It's really different than the places where I lived in the South," Steward-Blakely said.*



## Great Lakes Update

### Icebreaker *Mackinaw* visits Grand Haven

The new U.S. Coast Guard icebreaker USCGC *Mackinaw* WLBB 30 visited Grand Haven, Mich., in August for the annual Coast Guard festival which celebrates the Coast Guard and its accomplishments.

The *Mackinaw* arrived as part of the "parade of ships" which enters the harbor at the beginning of the festival. Lt. Col. James Davis, his wife and family were dignitaries in the festival parade.

The decommissioned vessel *Mackinaw* WAGB 83 is moored at Mackinaw City, where it serves as a maritime museum.

*Under sunny skies, an enthusiastic crowd welcomes the U.S. Coast Guard vessel Mackinaw during the Coast Guard Festival's parade of ships.*



### Pier safety measures save lives

Several near drownings have occurred along the Lake Michigan eastern lakeshore due to dangerous rip currents.

Thanks to the efforts of the beach and pier safety task force, which includes the Army Corps of Engineers, several lives were saved primarily due to the safety features that were installed on navigation structures at Holland and Grand Haven.

The installation of these safety features -- including life rings, life ring alarms, cameras, and telephones, has been embraced by the community and is a community effort. According to Sgt. Keith Koeman of the Ottawa County Sheriff's Department, 22 lives were saved near the Holland navigation structure -- all in one day.

The sheriff's department dive team was training at Holland State Park that August day. Divers as well as bystanders helped rescue the stranded

swimmers from early afternoon into the evening hours, aided greatly by the presence of the life rings.



[www.edpostphotography.com](http://www.edpostphotography.com)

*Rip currents and big waves make swimming and water sports near piers extremely hazardous. The Corps has helped place safety equipment on the Grand Haven and Holland piers, resulting in dozens of successful rescues of stranded swimmers.*





# Employees of the Quarter — 2009

## 1st Quarter

### Chuck Gould Programs and Project Management

Gould, a project analyst, displayed outstanding initiative and professional-ism in his support to the Detroit District during the critical fiscal year 2009-10-11 budget preparations; and for supporting the project managers in labor, contract and budget management functions.



*Chuck Gould*

Programs and Project Management promptly and accurately responded to multiple requests for budget cycle data, project info sheet development and congressional visit preparation, thanks to Gould's tireless efforts. Gould displays outstanding initiative with little guidance or supervision needed.

### Jodie Randall Resource Management

Randall, who left the Corps several months ago for another position, took on all re-



*Jodie Randall*

sponsibilities given her and executed them exceptionally well. She was well organized, consistently met tight deadlines, and brought tremendous industry knowledge to her government work.

Her desire to learn and grow amazed her co-workers, and her positive attitude benefited the office tremendously. Often it is difficult to measure an employee's value in dollars and cents.

But Randall's supervisor reported that soon after Randall was hired, she demonstrated how valuable her efforts were by successfully collecting \$335,000 worth of delinquent payments due the Detroit District over a four-month period.

### Roger Scholbe Lake Michigan Area Office

Scholbe served as the technical expert for all information technology equipment in the Lake Michigan Area Office (Grand Haven, Mich.; Kewaunee and Fox River, Wis.) during the recent ACE-IT refresh. He was integral in assuring that all refreshed equipment was operating and functional. Handling such duties as submittal reviews and inspections of completed work, Scholbe has done an exemplary job overseeing the complex Fox River Gate Automation project, which involves security cameras, remote operation of gates, alarm systems and sophisticated work stations.



*Roger Scholbe*

## 2nd Quarter

### Angie Mundell Operations and Maintenance

Handling a heavy workload, Mundell displays incredible initiative and resource-



*Angie Mundell*

fulness as project manager for all Operations and Maintenance projects within the district.

She routinely interacts with stakeholders and customers from Monroe, Mich. to Duluth, Minn., ensuring that projects meet their maintenance and repair needs. Mundell's excellent communication skills, courtesy, respect for colleagues and desire to be a team player enable her to deftly handle technical, administrative and political challenges. She also has been instrumental in developing congressional and navigation fact sheets and press releases.

### Jolanda Rose Engineering, Design and Construction

Since she began working for the ED&C office in October 2008, Rose has become a phenomenal asset. She displays outstanding initiative and ambition



*Jolanda Rose*

in being responsive to all of the staff's day-to-day needs, whether it is travel orders, credit card purchases, preparation of individual development programs or a variety of other mission essential support activities.

She has worked diligently to become fluent in all CEFMS modules, consistently demonstrates patience and maintains a courteous and professional demeanor in dealing with all colleagues and contacts.

### Mike Klomp Lake Michigan Area Office

Klomp has worked for the Lake Michigan Area Office (LMAO) in Grand Haven,



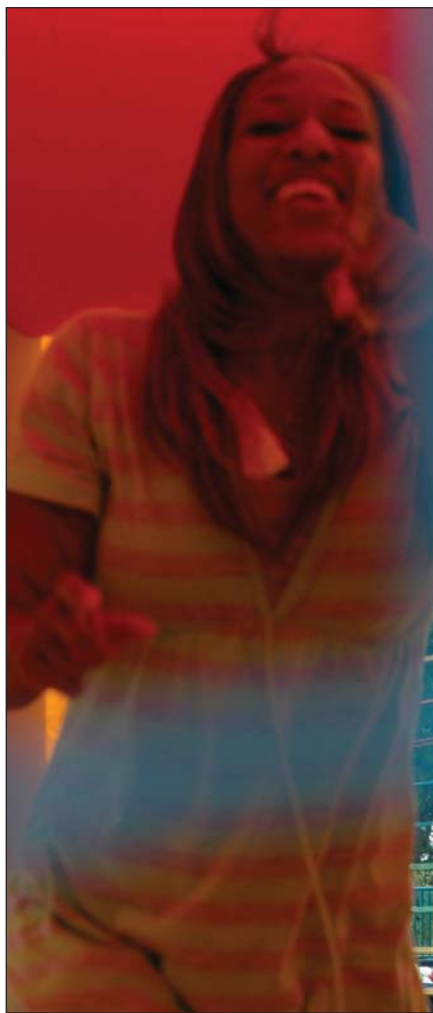
*Mike Klomp*

Mich.; since May 2008 as a co-op student. A senior at Ferris State University, he is studying for a construction management degree. Klomp handles a variety of contract administrative duties.

A recent hike in the workload led to Mike's placement on the Petoskey breakwater project, where he has performed admirably. He handles preparatory inspections, oversees contractors' work and regularly interacts with the public and community leaders to provide information and respond to questions and complaints. Klomp's knowledge, intelligence and solid work ethic have been invaluable to the Corps.



## Corps employees enjoy barbecue with good food and



*I own this hopper now.*



*1-2-3 let's jump!*



*Taking a break in the shade  
and cooling off with a drink.*



*No walk is too tough for us.*



*The wind is just right for some  
bubble blowing fun.*



*I'm gonna hit a home run. Hopefully there will be candy.*



## good fun on Detroit's Belle Isle

Photos by Cassandra Kardeke and Ricardo Garcia



Time for the grown-ups to play – water balloon toss.



How far away can one be to catch the egg? Ask the Allis brothers.



Spiderman art work outdoes butterflies and flowers any day.

fy.





## Area offices celebrate summer

In addition to the headquarters office barbecue on Detroit's Belle Isle (pages 14-15), employees in the District's area offices also enjoyed summer barbecues. The Soo and Grand Haven outings are pictured here. The Duluth, Minn., and Kewaunee, Wis., offices also held barbecues.



The Soo Area Office barbecue took place July 17 at Sherman Park in Sault Ste. Marie. Area Engineer Al Klein (left) and Assistant Area Engineer Steve Rose prepare hamburgers and hot dogs for the approximately 70 people who participated.



Area Engineer Tom O'Bryan oversees the grill during the Corps Lake Michigan Area Office picnic at an Ottawa County park while his sons John and Liam look on.



From left, Eric Schmidt, Alicia Lane, Tom O'Bryan and Brian Essenburg take a break from frisbee during the Lake Michigan Area Office barbecue.